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December 14, 1977

Admiral Stansfield Turner, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

*See reply*  
19 DEC 1977

Dear Admiral Turner:

We at the National Taxpayers Union are frequently critical of government administrators. We want to take this opportunity, however, to express our admiration and support for your outstanding work at the Central Intelligence Agency. You have demonstrated a degree of judgement and courage rare among federal officials.

On June 23 of this year, we wrote to endorse your decision to curtail the hiring of federal retirees in second-career federal jobs within the CIA. We hope that decision will serve as a precedent the entire government will shortly follow.

Most recently, the taxpayers owe you a debt of thanks for taking a step virtually unprecedented in recent years: improving the efficiency of your agency by removing bureaucratic deadwood and streamlining outdated Agency operations. Typical government bureaucracies act in precisely the opposite manner: inefficient, obsolete or unnecessary programs and personnel are routinely perpetuated without regard for taxpayers or overall Agency effectiveness. Your refusal to follow this profligate path deserves recognition.

Doubtless you will come under fire from some critics as a result of your tough stand. We wish, however, that your action could serve as an example to other department administrators. As we closed our last letter, keep up the good work. The taxpayers of America commend you for your good judgement.

Sincerely,



William Bonner  
Executive Director

WB:pp